

20 June 1977

The Editor  
The Washington Star  
225 Virginia Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20061

Dear Sir:

In a tongue-in-cheek editorial on 29 May you described the controversy that has arisen over the tutoring by CIA employees at Ballou High School as "the first bizarre blossom" of the "silly season." A "marvelously silly" episode, you said.

It couldn't have been said any better.

I view with dismay, therefore, Mary McGrory's column in your edition of 19 June, which quite seriously reports that:

--The CIA "penetrated" the school's community "through a scheme to help students with math and computers;"

--Ballou is located in a neighborhood where it is "widely, if not universally, believed that the people of Langley killed Martin Luther King and the Kennedy brothers;"

--The CIA "used" Ballou students "to help the Agency's 'good guy' image."

Again, your editorial provided a better answer than I can: "Pavlovian squirming," and "a twitch in some minds," you called this sort of thing.

-2-

I trust that Ms. McCrory devoted as much effort in "research" for the column as she did in obtaining the name of the Agency's Equal Employment Opportunity Director OMEGA WARD.

His real name, of course, is OMEGO WARE.

Let it be said one last time: The CIA, under guidelines set by the Civil Service Commission and on invitation by Ballou's principal, sent employees to the school whose skills and knowledge in mathematics and computer sciences could make a contribution to the learning of some young people.

That was all.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Herbert E. Hetu  
Assistant for Public Affairs  
to the Director of Central Intelligence

# MARY McGRORY: They Cringe When CIA Offers a Helping Hand

Emily Washington, a teacher with a "near-perfect" record, is at the cutting edge of the CIA's current efforts to prove it has a heart.

Ms. Washington, an articulate young woman with an expressive face, is suing the D.C. Board of Education for the "harassment" she has suffered since she protested the agency's tutoring program at Ballou Senior High School, where she has taught the humanities for the last 12 years.

She was among about 20 people who gathered in the school cafeteria last Tuesday night when the CIA met the "community" which it penetrated last March through a scheme to help students with math and computers.

The question, of course, was motive, as it always is when the CIA is involved.

Omega Ward, head of the agency's Equal Opportunities Section, a smooth, cool young black perfectly turned out in a safari suit and silver necklace, said it was "totally altruistic." He was forbearing with his critics, sprinkled his remarks with agency phrases — "getting wrapped around the axle," "not telling you how to suck your eggs."

Al Lipp, a CIA career development officer, who wore seersucker and white shoes, presented himself as a fellow taxpayer and father of children in public schools. He kept saying that he thought it would be too bad if the program were to be discontinued "just because we were who we were."

The protesters insisted it was the way the thing was done rather than the thing itself which concerned them. But that was not exactly so. Only a dashiki-clad heckler who called himself "The One" came right out and told the visitors they represented "death and evil."

The CIA team countered that they had been invited by the principal, and were not responsible for the ruffled feelings of the faculty and parents who were not consulted.

The principal, a bearded, scowling man named Dr. Reuben Pierce, conceded at the outset that he perhaps should have advertised the coming of the company. By now he understands that asking the CIA in is not really like asking a representative of the 4-H clubs, particularly in a neighborhood where it is widely, if not universally, believed that the people of Langley killed Martin Luther King and the Kennedy brothers.

Even a defender, Mitchell Chapelle, parent of a Ballou student — he said he thought it was better for the students to be recruited by the CIA than by the dope-pushers and pimps who are all around — told a reporter after he sat down that he personally believes that the CIA is responsible for the deaths of Dr. King and both Kennedys.

The president of the Teachers Union, William H. Simons, said it looked like a Trojan horse to him, a kind of covert recruiting operation.

"Nonsense," said Ward and Lipp almost in unison. If they had wanted to recruit the Anacostia students, they would have sent recruiters. If any of the students asked, they were referred to the recruiting office in Rosslyn.

And, besides, why would they be trying to sign up 17-year olds?

A middle-aged woman got up and said, "One of the Bay of Pigs people on that program was 17 when he was recruited."

She was referring, of course to the recent CBS Report by Bill Moyers, "The CIA's Secret Army," a program not calculated to still Anacostia's reservations about the agency.

Ms. Washington said afterwards that the recruiting was subliminal. One of her students told her about a black tutor from the CIA who said: "I was in the Washington school system, and it stinks — now I'm in the CIA and I can go anywhere."

"We don't want our children railroaded into the CIA," she said. "They think it's 007 or the Mafia. The way this was done has totally eradicated everything I am trying to instill in them."

If the program, which began last March, excited the students, it agitated the faculty. Seventy of the 114 teachers signed a petition to evict the CIA. "It wasn't just a lunatic fringe," said Carmelita Carter, another organizer of the protest.

She and Ms. Washington were officially reprimanded for taking part in a protest rally on May 24 on the school steps. They didn't follow the principal's order to return to their posts. They were both charged with being AWOL and docked half a day's leave.

Ms. Washington is fighting. She has hired a lawyer. The faculty is split. She gets calls from people who tell her "you are going to die" for taking on the sinister power of the CIA. She's afraid she is "going to be run out of the school system."

No students were present to testify as to what they learned from their exotic tutors or to say if they minded being used to help the agency's "good-guy" image.

But it does seem that the CIA incursion into Anacostia has produced the usual results — consternation, division, disruption. Only this time, they were unintended. They were only trying to help. It will be a while, obviously, before anybody believes that.